

NEW FROM IRELAND

Drip-dry golf . . . that's the next modern miracle of industrial ingenuity. A factory in Ireland is developing artificial greens for golf courses, woven from the same kind of man-made fibre which they use for men's shirts and women's frocks.

The fabric greens have already been tried out on golf courses in America, in States like Arizona where they have extremes of heat and cold. Apparently it stands up to either drought or snow.

"It can be used for either indoor or outdoor greens," say the makers. "The fabric can be laid down and used practically anywhere—in a disused barn or even on the club-house floor.

It can be washed with a detergent. There is no reason why golf courses and bowling greens shouldn't be carpeted to give perfect conditions for sport all the year round."

Experts doubt, however, if there is likely to be much demand for the artificial green here. "We don't need it in

this country," says Southall grass-and-course expert Arthur Cogswelle.

"We can grow our own grass greens, but the artificial surface could be useful in the arid countries where they have to use sand greens, or even putt on bare baked earth."

Bill McGowran in the
London Evening News, 15/3/63.

NEW FROM CARTERS

The 1963 edition of Messrs. Carters' Booklet "Treatment of Golf Courses and Sports Grounds" has just been published and will be of interest to all greenkeepers.

The accompanying Spring Price List (Grass Seeds, Fertilisers and Implements) has been enlarged to show a larger selection of their wide range of products available for use on turf.

Messrs. Carters will be pleased to post copies to any of our readers not already on their mailing list.

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News



from the Sections

NORTHERN

By J. Parker

Chairman:

G. W. MASON
(Halifax West End)

Hon. Secretary:

8 Goit Stock Terr., Harden,
Bingley, Yorks.

Spring Tournament

THE ANNUAL SPRING TOURNAMENT, due to be played on Tuesday, 9th April, has been postponed. The new date will be Tuesday, 7th May. Closing date for entries will now be Saturday, 27th April.

February Meeting

Despite the continued severe wintry weather, 30 members turned up for the February meeting held in the Market Tavern, Bradford, on Tuesday, 19th February. The speaker was Mr. H. Winkle, of B.S.A. Ltd., who illustrated his talk with coloured slides. These were most interesting and Mr. Winkle clearly explained the different processes gone through in making up an engine. A vote of

thanks was proposed by Mr. A. Robertshaw, seconded by Mr. S. Bailes, after Mr. Winkle had answered members' questions.

Our thanks are due to our President, Mr. W. Mountain, for providing a delicious buffet supper and drinks.

New Member

We welcome to the Section Mr. W. Dalby, who has taken over the position of Head Greenkeeper to the Ganton Golf Club, in succession to the late Ted Calam.

SOUTHERN

By W. Mason

Chairman:
J. K. GLASS
(Thorpe Hall)

Hon. Secretary:
18 Albert Road, Hendon, N.W.4.
Tel.: SUNnyhill 0245

WE HAD A VERY GOOD ATTENDANCE on 13th February and a cost interesting colour film showing the installation of alkathene tubing for water to all the greens on the Portrush Golf Course. Many thanks to Messrs. Parkers and their representatives who gave the show, especially Mr. Booth, who gave a running commentary and answered all the questions put to him afterwards.

The Section Annual Spring Tournament will be played at Thorndon Park Golf Club, Brentwood, Essex, on Wednesday, 15th May. During my absence in hospital, my Committee decided that all entries for the tournament should be sent to Mr. F. W. Ford, 66 Mercer Road, Holloway, N.19, together with the name of their club and handicap.

Please note the closing date will be Monday, 29th April, and the draw will be made on the 30th. All competitors will be notified.

May I please remind all members that the end of our financial year is 1st May, when subscriptions become due.

(We all hope Bill Mason will soon be back in harness again and send him our very best wishes—Editor.)

Quiz

Topical and interesting questions on subjects such as leatherjackets, ring disease,

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bone meal dressings, soil samples, surface drainage, square frost holes, etc., were discussed at the ever popular quiz on Wednesday, 13th March, at the Tab t Restaurant.

It was very gratifying to see new faces among the old of the 47 members who, despite this never-been-known-before winter, and all the problems that go with it, seemed in very good spirits.

Thanks to our Chairman, Mr. Jock Glass, who, with his natural ability and a big hammer, conducted a very enjoyable evening.

Thorndon Park

Entries for Spring Tournament to Hon. Secretary as usual, closing date Monday, 29th April. Preference of starting times to accompany entries.

Visit to Suttons

On Wednesday, 26th June, a party of 40 members will be guests of Suttons and Sons, Ltd., Reading, and from past experience this will be a most enjoyable and instructional day out.

A coach will be provided, leaving Charing Cross at approximately 8-0 a.m., or members can travel under their own steam. Either way, apply to Secretary as soon as possible.

NORTH-EAST

By T. Oliver

Hon. Secretary:
Heathery Cottage,
Heathery Lane, Gosforth,
Newcastle-on-Tyne 3.

Chairman:
J. SIMPSON
(Ponteland G.C.)

MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INFORMED of a visit to the Sports Turf Research Institute, on Tuesday, 23rd April. The bus will leave St. Thomas Street, Haymarket, Newcastle, at 8-30 a.m. Lunch and tea at Bingley. As applications had to be in by the end of March, will any member who has not yet applied and intends going, please let me know at once, along with any of their "officials".

We are very proud that Mr. L. A. Jones has been elected President of the English Golf Union. Not only does he take a great interest in the game, he is also very keen on our work and greenkeeping, and it was mostly through his efforts that we arranged a meeting with Jock Glass, Chairman, Mr. Dix, Secretary, and Mr. Hawtree, Editor, which was very successful and resulted in Northumberland and Durham Greenkeepers re-joining the B.G.G.A. Mr. Jones has very generously presented the Section with a prize. This will be known as "The President's Putter", the competition to take what form the Committee decides. On behalf of the North East Section we thank him very much and wish him all the best and a happy year of office.

The Spring Meeting will be held on Thursday, 16th May, by kind permission of the Committee of the Hartlepool Golf Club.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, 13th April, at the Marquis of Blandford, Westgate Road, Newcastle, at 7-0 p.m.

NORTH-WEST

By B. Ellis

Chairman:
T. Brennan
(Wilmslow G.C.)

Hon. Secretary
Romiley G.C.

THE SECTION SPRING TOURNAMENT will be held at the Sale Golf Club on Monday, 13th May, by kind permission of the Council.

Eighteen holes will be played in the morning nine holes in the afternoon. Members are requested to make an early start. Entries should be sent to me by the 6th May.

The Annual General Meeting will also be held at the Sale Golf Club in the evening of 13th May and will commence as near as possible to 7-0 p.m.

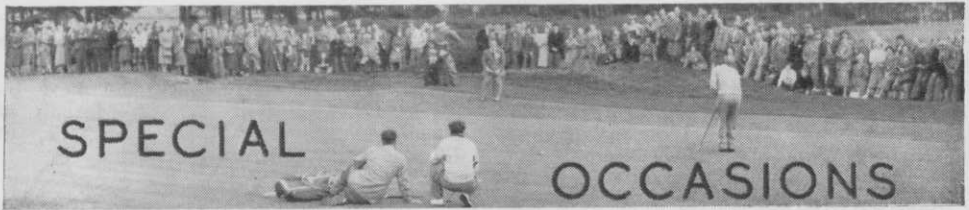
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SPECIAL

OCCASIONS

APRIL

- 3rd Welsh Section, Spring Meeting, Clyne Golf Club.
- 4th Midland Section, Spring Tournament, Sutton Coldfield Golf Club.
- 18th Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association (West Section), Annual Spring Competition, Erskine Golf Club.
- 23rd North East Section, Visit to Sports Turf Research Institute.

MAY

- 7th Northern Section, Spring Tournament, Woodsome Hall, Huddersfield Golf Club.
- 9th Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association (East Section) Annual Competition, Dunbar Golf Course.
- 13th North West Section, Spring Tournament, Sale Golf Club.
- 14th Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association (North and Midland Section), Annual Golf Tournament for the Georgie McLean Trophy, Old Course, St. Andrews.
- 15th Southern Section, Spring Tournament, Thorndon Park Golf Club.
- 16th North East Section, Spring Meeting, Hartlepool Golf Club.
- 28th East Midland Section, Spring Tournament, Derby Golf Club.

JUNE

- 11th Midland Section, President's Match, Handsworth.
- 12th Southern Section, Annual General Meeting, Talbot Restaurant.

AUGUST.

- 12th, 13th and 14th Annual General Meeting and Annual Tournament, Royal Birkdale Golf Club.

SEPTEMBER

- 26th Midland Section, Autumn Tournament, Handsworth Golf Club.

MISCELLANEOUS

PROFESSIONALS AND GREENKEEPERS having stocks of used golf balls contact Sparkbrook Golf Ball Co., 295 Highgate Road, Stoney Lane, Birmingham, with a view to filling export orders.

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EAST SECTION

THE ANNUAL COMPETITION WILL be held on 9th May over Dunbar Golf Course, commencing 9-30 a.m. Entries to be sent to the Secretary not later than 2nd May.

NORTH & MIDLAND SECTION

OUR ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT for the Georgie McLean Trophy will be held on Tuesday, 14th May, on the Old Course, St. Andrews, by the kind permission of the Joint Links Committee. I will notify all members of full details later.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

HEAD GREENKEEPER required for Dyrham Park Golf and Country Club near London. Construction commencing April/May. Accommodation available. Outstanding opportunity for fully experienced successful applicant. Write details of age, experience, salary to Secretary, 6 Goodyear Gardens, Hendon, N.W.4.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER required. Wages above agricultural rate. Free newly built bungalow and light—3 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, etc. Full details to Secretary, Denham Golf Club, Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

HEAD GREENKEEPER required, East Devon Golf Club. Only fully experienced men considered. Wage £15 per week. Excellent house and garden adjacent to course, rent and rates free. Details in writing to the Secretary.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER required to work in pleasant conditions at attractive rate of pay. Shirley Park Golf Club, Addiscombe Road, Croydon, Surrey.

BUYING NEW EQUIPMENT—*continued.*

ground conditions, or for use on other types of surfaces. The degree of their intended use for transportation, perhaps over uneven surfaces such as golf fairways, should be provided for.

Adequacy of design for these facilities in regard to heavier items of equipment may call for quite elaborate additions to a unit but their omission may be fatal to the success of the job. An example is the development of tractor hydraulic controls for otherwise unmanageable implements.

The greater the diameter and the broader the rim surface of the ground or driving wheels, the easier it will be to propel or control a travelling chassis. This simple rule is often neglected in the interests of initial economy, but the result is loss of time and even undue wear and damage to transmissions or other mechanisms.

* * *

Handles also are often reasonably adequate for ground use but may be found inconvenient or fatiguing when it is required to use them for transportation of the machine.

Remote controls should be located conveniently and in correct relation to one another.

Most well designed equipment is capable of certain necessary adjustments and these fall into two main categories—take-up adjustments for wear, and change over adjustments for facilitating variations in the functional results obtained. These should be carefully studied by the prospective buyer. It is generally unsatisfactory to attempt to design one adjustment mechanism for both the above purposes. It is important to note also that any adjusting mechanism should be so located as to avoid having any adverse effect on the rigidity of construction or on the working components of the equipment. Adjustment mechanism should provide positive means of setting components so that having once been correctly related they will remain so when the item is put to work. Adjustments may also be necessary to suit varying heights of operators, but this feature is now rarely omitted.

Safety of operator. One further requirement, especially of machines with power driven components, is safety of operator. This is a most difficult aspect of design and is generally met by covering in or guarding moving parts (except where it is better that these should be under continual observation), by safety cut-out controls and by the use of the "dead man's handle" principle. This latter is a most effective and efficient way of reducing risks to man and machine and also to fine turf surfaces.

* * *

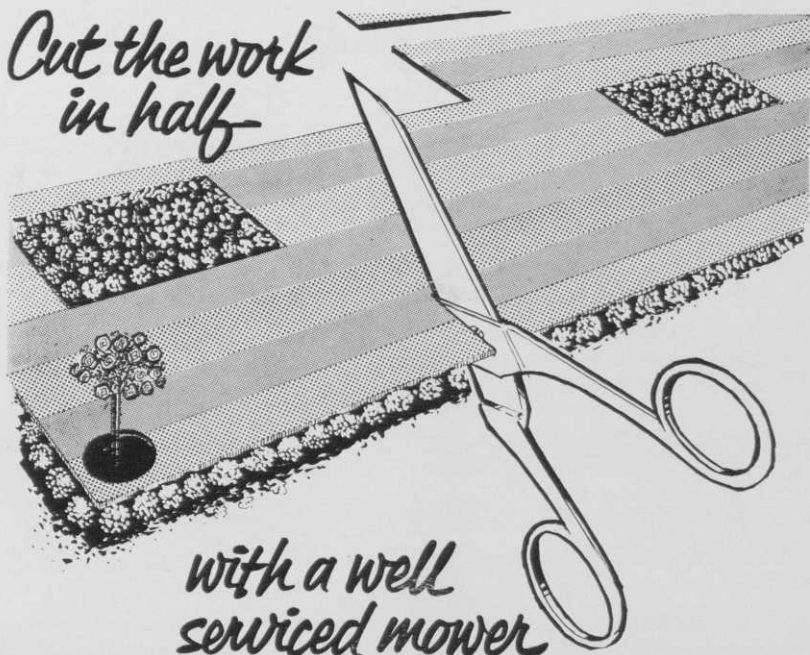
Demonstrations. The practical opinion of an operator is invaluable in the selection of equipment, especially hand tools and machines, but he should be given a budget for expenditure. There is little doubt that control features are normally the most difficult for purchasers to access and in this respect the value of practical demonstrations under working conditions is inestimable. The operator himself, however, should be the final arbiter and should take the opportunity to make the demonstrator pass on to him the know-how of handling. At the same time, in the event of purchase, the printed working instructions should be requested and perused. The demonstrator can be asked to point out important parts of the instructions. These will have been prepared with the intention of keeping down faults and misunderstandings and attention to them will be amply repaid. As much or more of the designer's intentions may appear in well drafted instructions as in the sales publicity for a product.

As a general rule simultaneous competitive demonstrations should not be arranged as this may merely prove embarrassing for all concerned and will not necessarily improve the presentation of the products.

It should be understood that good work is not produced so much by a tool, implement or machine as by the operator. Equipment should not be expected to think for itself. The handling of it, however, should always be sufficiently simple and physically un-fatiguing as to leave the operator freedom of thought and attention to the work in hand.

This article first appeared in S.T.R.I. Journal No. 36, 1960.

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